

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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THE OLD YEAR

WILL GO DOWN IN LOCAL HISTORY AS YEAR OF THE GREAT FLOOD.

Some of the most important events of the year considered from a public point of view—Some sensations of the year—Notable church events.

The year 1903, which closed Thursday night, will go down in local history as the year of the great flood. Like 1888, the year of the great blizzard, and like the experiences of blizzard-day, those of flood-day will be vividly recalled for some time to come on occasions of heavy storms. In a review of the events of 1903 as bearing on local history, the flood that occurred in October stands pre-eminent as the great event of the year. The resultant damage to public and private property amounted to upwards of \$10,000, roughly estimated.

The formation of the Public Service Corporation, one of the leading large financial transactions of the year 1903, and through which all the trolley lines and gas and electric light plants in this county were merged under one management, had an important effect here in the matter of local transportation, in that it brought into operation a transfer privilege between the Bloomfield avenue trolley line and the Orange and Passaic Valley line.

Another matter in the line of works destined to be of local importance, was the laying of a 60-inch water main from the Cedar Grove reservoir into Newark along Bloomfield avenue. Provision has been made at several points along the big main for the attachment of lateral mains for supplying this locality with water. The laying of the pipe-line was an interesting piece of engineering skill, and attracted much attention during its progress.

The local election in the spring of 1903 was not of much importance in its results, only one change being made in the personnel of the Town Council, and in no manner affecting public policy.

The year was a comparatively quiet one in the Police Department. The greater part of the arrests made were for matters within the jurisdiction of the local courts. One case, in some respects the most notable of the year, was before the county court, and the action of the jury in the case created a greater sensation than the cause of the trial. The case was that of a Poleander, who was arrested for killing sheep and fowls. The jury, in the face of the most convincing evidence, rendered a verdict of not guilty, to the amazement of the judge, who immediately discharged the twelve jurors from that term of court.

The year 1903 was a great one in fire circles, one of the most serious fires being one which came close home to the firemen themselves in the partial destruction of Essex truck house.

The declaring by the Supreme Court unconstitutional the law exempting firemen from taxation was the sensation of the year in fire circles.

In local church life the notable event of 1903 was the resignation of Rev. Charles A. Cox as pastor of the First Baptist Church, after fifteen years' service there. Mr. Cox's activities in religious and moral work were not confined alone to the Baptist Church. He was an energetic worker in all movements of a general religious and moral character, and all good citizens of the town felt that a useful man had withdrawn from the local field when he tendered his resignation of the pastorate of the church with which he had been long identified.

The location of the Job Haines Home for Aged People here gives this town more than a passing interest in one of the leading charities in Essex county, and the completion and opening by that institution of a large and magnificent new building, during the year, was the chief event of charitable work during 1903.

A slight stir in the matter of public parks occurred during 1903, when some Essex County Park Commissioners with a request that the commissioners acquire sufficient land for an enlargement of Wateessing Park. This action gave rise to a movement for the extension of Wateessing Park from the Franklin School in East Orange to the Prospect Street School in this town. The aim of the Bloomfielders interested in the movement was to secure the improvement of the surroundings of the Prospect Street School-house. It subsequently developed that other interests were at work along the line of the extension of this same park, but on a much broader basis than was contemplated in the "school to school" park project, and the latter was temporarily dropped to make right of way for the larger scheme.

One of the local churches has celebrated its centennial anniversary, and two of them have passed the semi-centennial mark. The second of the two to reach the half-century stage was the Park M. E. Church, and the celebration

of the event was an interesting part of the local church history of 1903. The year 1903 also witnessed the birth of a new church home in this town in the opening for worship of the new Episcopal chapel known as Ascension Chapel.

The year 1903 witnessed a remarkable contest at the polls over the question of purchase by the town of a water supply plant. The issue was over the question of price. The Orange Water Company asked \$10,000 for its plant. The Town Council advised the purchase of the plant, but the people rejected the proposition by an overwhelming vote.

An innovation in the matter of taxes was introduced in 1903, when the customary rebate allowed on advance payment of taxes was stricken out and no rebate of any kind allowed. The new rule was the subject of much comment. Its object was to save to the town treasury the upwards of one thousand dollars hitherto allowed in discounts. Just what saving was actually made will appear in the annual report of the Town Council.

The year 1903 closed as the people of this town were entering upon a local political campaign with municipal ownership as an issue. The actions and the speeches of the majority of members of the Town Council have been steadily leading up to that issue for the past eighteen months. The issue has been broached in a stereotyped way for many years in the annual reports of Chief Engineers of the Fire Department, and has been advocated at times by individual members of the Town Council and Township Committee, but the present Town Council has taken advanced steps along the line of municipal ownership, not only of fire-houses, but also of water plants, lighting plants, and whatever else the people can own to advantage.

The Messiah.

The production of Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," in its entirety would be too much of an undertaking for one evening's work, yet familiarity with the music enables an experienced choir-master to combine within the allotted time of an evening's concert all the popular and inspiring features of the grandest Christmas-tide oratorio ever composed.

Choirmaster Arthur A. Ellor of the Wateessing M. E. Church, by reason of long experience in conducting productions of this celebrated oratorio, and from a studious devotion to that class of music, will no doubt be able to give the people of this town an opportunity of hearing and enjoying that great masterpiece in a manner not excelled outside of the grand production of it in the metropolis when the oratorio is sung in the Wateessing M. E. Church Friday evening, January 8.

For several weeks past Mr. Ellor has been ardently at work rehearsing a chorus of fifty-five voices and an orchestra of twenty musicians for this more than ordinary musical event. The rehearsals have satisfactorily demonstrated that the members of the chorus can sing with confidence and power the stirring chorals of the oratorio.

These choruses will be sung on this occasion: "And the Glory of the Lord," "For Unto Us a Child is Born," "Glory to God in the Highest," "Behold the Lamb of God," "He Hath Borne Our Griefs," "Lift Up Your Heads, O ye Gates," "Hallelujah Chorus," "Worthy is the Lamb."

Miss Marie Stoddard of New York City will sing the beautiful solos allotted to the soprano. These selections are: "There were Shepherds Abiding in the Field," "Behold, O Daughter of Zion," "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth." The solos for the alto voice in this great work are among its finest features, and Miss Florence Stockwell of the Westminster Presbyterian Church will sing them, and that is an advance assurance that the parts will be well sustained. The alto solos selected are: "Behold a Virgin," "Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind be Opened," "He was Despised and Rejected of Men." Mr. Edward Walker will sustain the tenor parts. The majestic and dignified bass solos that are distinguishing features of the oratorio will be sung by Mr. Millard Roubaud of the Westminster Church quartette. In securing Mr. Roubaud for this part of the work it is felt that this important and difficult part of the oratorio will be sustained in a manner worthy of the great theme. Mr. Roubaud will sing the solos: "Thus Saith the Lord of Hosts," "For Behold Darkness Shall Cover the Earth," "Why do the Nations so Furiously Rage?"

With the solo parts so well provided for and a well-drilled chorus and orchestra, together with an organist, Mr. Charles Ellor, who has had years of experience with the Messiah music, there is every reason why the presentation of the oratorio on this occasion should meet the highest expectations. Much has been promised and the people will expect much, and those interested should see to it that the people are not disappointed. The people, of course, do not include musical cranks and those who make it their bounden duty to split hairs over musical technicalities.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.

The Working of That Theory of Public Policy as Shown After One Year's Experience in East Orange—Heavy Charge Against City Department for Water.

Chairman Jerome Dudley Gedney of the East Orange City Council's Water Committee Monday night furnished a statement to the Council of the receipts and expenses of the water department for the year which closed October 1. The report, which explains the results of the first year of municipal ownership, is as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
Water rentals.....	\$73,570 07
House connections.....	5,280 99
Masons' permits.....	575 99
Uncollected bills.....	1,158 96
Water rentals.....	2,485 09
Connections.....	15 00—\$82,218 91
OPERATING EXPENSES.	
Incidentals.....	\$509 00
Connections, labor and materials.....	3,488 09
Office expense.....	1,158 96
Pump house, labor and supplies.....	3,471 15
Maintenance and repairs.....	49 51
Coal.....	7,124 72
Salaries (sup't and office).....	7,218 16
Water Newark and Orange Water Co. bonds.....	47,485 43
Interest on bonds to Oct. 1, 1903.....	9,470 50—\$77,182 98
Balance.....	\$5,035 93
ESTIMATED VALUE OF WATER SUPPLY FOR CITY	
Fire hydrants (367 at \$30 per year).....	\$11,010 00
Flushing sewers (200 days at \$13.75).....	2,750 00
38 flush tanks (\$50 per year).....	1,900 00
13 standpipes (200 days at \$30 per day).....	6,000 00
Schools.....	1,101 77
Fire department.....	49 51
City Hall.....	30 00
Police station.....	15 00
Hospital.....	60 00
Free Public Library.....	14 31
Total.....	\$22,240 59

During the year eight new fire hydrants were put up and one reset, and 9,267 feet of pipe were laid, as follows: Twelve-inch, 1,979; six-inch, 5,734; four-inch, 600; two-inch, 967. There were twenty-two gages used on the work, and three valves have been set to divide the Orange Water Company's Bloomfield system from the East Orange water department system, one at Westcott street, at the city line; one at Prospect street, at the city line, and one in Grove street, north, at the city line.

During the year 203 house connections, four flush tank connections and one connection for school purposes were made.

Additions to the plant and the cost of the several items were as follows: Construction account, labor and materials, \$9,536 88; meters, \$1,168 51; tools, \$950 40; fixtures, office, \$374 14; stock on hand, supplies for construction, etc., \$759 35; horse, wagons, cart and stable supplies, \$688; pump-house supplies, oil, etc., \$89; total, \$13,396 18.

In presenting his report Mr. Gedney made a suggestion that hereafter all the water used by the various city departments should be charged to their respective accounts, that is, amounts covering the cost of the water used should be transferred from the account of the department using it and credited to the water department. This, he stated, would result in the exercise of greater economy by those using water. He figured the amounts each department should be charged by the figures mentioned above.

Mr. Ougheltrie, Chairman of the Fire Committee, promptly objected to the imposition of any charge such as was approximated against his committee, in charge of the fire department, \$11,010 for 367 fire hydrants. That figure, which was charged by the Orange Water Company, was declared by Mr. Ougheltrie to be out of all proportion to actual use. He stated that scarcely 150 hydrants were used during a year, and he thought \$10 a hydrant would be nearer right.

Mr. Gedney explained that the figures given were the best he could secure with the material at hand, and of course they need not be adopted, but he advocated the motion that after January 1 all the departments be charged for the water used, and it was finally agreed to.

Mr. Gedney explained that it was necessary for its benefit that the water department should keep a strict account of the water so that the department would be in a position to tell where it stood at the end of the year.

Bloomfield Wren Banner.

The banner recently won by Division No. 2, A. O. H., of this town in a tug-of-war contest with Division No. 10 of Orange was presented Monday night at the regular meeting of the Bloomfield Division. The presentation address was made by Mr. Mackinson of Orange in an eloquent manner, and was replied to by James P. Mylod, President of Division No. 2, in a pleasant speech of acceptance. The other speakers were County Secretary Gascogne, J. A. Gleason and T. H. Higgins. W. Mahoney sang several baritone solos in a pleasing manner. The tug-of-war team of Division No. 2, which has never been defeated, is made up of Luke Farrell, James Mylod, E. Gruber, E. Lynch, E. Byrnes and T. Johnson.

Week of Prayer Services.

The week of prayer services will commence to-morrow night with a union service in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church under the auspices of the Evangelical Union. Rev. George L. Curtis of the First Presbyterian Church will preach the sermon.

HAINES FARM ASSESSMENT

Assessor Thomas R. Rawson Disputes the Correctness of Published Statistics and Requests the Publication of the Valuation Shown on the Tax Bills for Several Years Past.

In the CITIZEN of the 26th inst., the following statement about the assessment of the Haines farm in Brookdale was published:

The George Haines property which is specifically mentioned in Mr. Rawson's affidavit, has figured more or less in tax discussion for two or three years. The property lies on both sides of West Passaic avenue in Brookdale. It has a frontage of 1,570 feet on that street. The property is assessed in the name of S. J. Haines.

In 1901 the town assessment map credited the farm with 30 1-10 acres of ground, and the Board of Assessors assessed the house and barns at \$400, and the land at \$2,250, making a total tax valuation of \$2,650. Mr. Haines appeared before the Board of Assessors that year with his deed showing that his farm contained only 27 71-100 acres. The Board of Assessors recommended to the Board of Commissioners of Appeal that owing to the discrepancy between the town assessment map and the deed of the property, the owner be allowed a reduction of \$200 in the amount of the assessed valuation, thus making it \$2,450 instead of \$2,650. In 1902 the Board of Assessors levied the assessment in accordance with the deed, placing \$400 valuation on the house and barns, and \$2,050 on the 27 71-100 acres of land.

Mr. Haines again came before the Board of Assessors that year and said there was a question about the farm containing the amount of land called for in the deed, and the Board of Assessors gave him the benefit of the doubt, and it was mutually agreed between Mr. Haines and the members of the Board of Assessors that the farm should be considered for taxing purposes as containing 25 acres, and the Board of Assessors recommended another reduction of \$200 in the amount of the assessed valuation, bringing it down to \$2,250.

The current fiscal year the Board again assessed the farm buildings at \$400, and the 25 acres of land at \$1,850, an average of only \$74 per acre.

The substance of the above statement was obtained from official sources and positive assurances given as to its absolute correctness. A member of the Board of Commissioners of Appeal said that the Board had viewed the property and that the published statement was a correct one.

Mr. Rawson, of the Board of Assessors, disputes the truth of the statement in several particulars. Mr. Rawson says the farm is not located on West Passaic avenue, but on a street that is no more than a lane, and known as Briar avenue, and the street is not macadamized. Mr. Rawson puts as an offset against the assessment figures published above the actual tax bills paid from year to year.

The tax bills show that in the year 1895, when Mr. Haines purchased the farm, the assessment levied on the land and buildings that year by Assessor Lewis Cookfair was \$2,000 valuation. The farm was assessed as containing 27 70-100 acres. In 1896 Assessor Thomas Rawson assessed the farm land and buildings at \$2,000, and this valuation remained unchanged through the years of 1897, '98 and '99.

In 1900 the tax bill shows that the farm land and buildings were assessed at \$1,900. This assessment was levied by the Board of Assessors, Messrs. Baxter, Cookfair and Gilbert, and the valuation was reduced \$100 below the amount assessed upon the farm in 1899 by Mr. Rawson. According to the tax bill of 1901, the Board of Assessors placed a taxable valuation of \$2,450 on the land buildings, an increase of \$550 over the previous year.

The tax bill of 1902 shows that tax was paid on an assessed valuation on the land and building of \$2,350, and that the amount of land assessed is 25 acres. The assessment for 1903 is the same as that of 1902, and the tax bill has been sent to the State Board of Assessors on appeal.

Farewell to Dr. McDuffie.

A special business meeting of the congregation of the Prospect Street Baptist Church, East Orange, was held Sunday morning, at the close of the church service, to take action on the resignation of the pastor, Rev. Dr. Marshall V. McDuffie, which was presented a week ago. After the resignation had been accepted, a general desire was expressed for a farewell service, to be held before Dr. McDuffie leaves for his new charge in Baltimore, to afford the people an opportunity to express their good wishes to the pastor and his family. The trustees and deacons of the church were appointed to arrange for such a service, after consultation with Dr. McDuffie, as to the most convenient time for it. The service will probably be held next month, just prior to Dr. McDuffie's leaving East Orange.

Republican County Committee.

Major Carl Lentz was elected for the fourteenth time as Chairman of the Essex County Republican Committee at the annual meeting of that body Monday night. Robert T. Ross of the Second Ward, Newark, nominated Major Lentz, and the nomination was seconded by representatives from every ward in Newark and nearly every election district in the township.

Henry A. Potter of East Orange nominated John S. Gibson of Newark as an opposing candidate to Major Lentz. The vote resulted 135 for Major Lentz and 34 for Mr. Gibson. The Major's election was received with tumultuous applause, and on motion of Edward Brard of the Fifteenth Ward, Newark, the choice was made unanimous.

In his address to the committee Major Lentz said in part: "For the first time in the history of the county, and, for aught I know, in the history of the country, the choice of a chairman of any Republican County Committee was left to the people to decide, which the people did by an overwhelming majority, and that choice you have so splendidly ratified to-night. As you know, there was a new primary election law enacted last winter to obtain pure primary elections. The Republican County Committee of Essex County had for ten years followed that same plan. The Republican voters have made the nominations, and no man was denied the right to vote at a Republican primary election if he was a true Republican. The nominations made in that way were ratified by the Conventions, and later by the people. Our nominations are not made by any committee or clique, but are made by the people and ratified by the people with majorities unparalleled."

The other officers of the County Committee elected were: County Register George E. DeCamp of Livingston, Vice-Chairman; Mayor Henry M. Doremus, Treasurer; John Francis, Sergeant-at-Arms. Major Lentz appointed John J. McGrath as Recording Secretary and John R. Flavell as Corresponding Secretary, and the committee confirmed the appointments.

Members of the County Committee from this town were assigned places on the following sub-committees: James H. Moore, Finance Committee; Thomas McGowan, Chairman of Committee on County Affairs.

Fought Over Flags.

The Second Ward Polish colony was largely represented in the police court Monday night, when several Poles were arraigned on a charge of assaulting and beating one of their countrymen. Recorder Cadmus imposed a fine of ten dollars each on three of the five prisoners, and two were discharged for lack of evidence. Several others implicated in the affair were not brought into court, as there was no formal complaint against them.

Monday night's trial was the outcome of a street fight of large proportions that occurred in the Polish district of the Second Ward Saturday night, following a raffle for a gold watch. The participants in the fight pulled pickets off of a nearby fence and belabored one another with them. The raffle that preceded the fight was for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of flags for a Polish society. A dispute occurred in the house where the raffle took place, and as beer had been freely distributed, the disputants were in a better mood for the use of fists than arguments, and when they got outside they gave vent to their passion in a furious onslaught on one another.

Pleasant Social Event.

A pleasant event Tuesday night was the dance given by Miss Madeline Wright at the Glen Ridge Club. The interior of the pretty little club house was tastefully decorated with holly and evergreens. Music was furnished by Harry Westervelt. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Powers, Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Tilden Harris, Mrs. Robert B. Davis, Clifford Berrian, William Holt, Miss Margaret Harris, Miss Marion White, Miss Smith, Miss Lucretia Davis, Miss Freeman, Miss Taylor, Miss Nien, Miss Owen, Robert Mitchell, Townley Pierson and Mr. Langstroth of Glen Ridge, and Miss Josephine Clark, Miss Alice Mathers and Kenneth Drisler of New York.

Baptist Church Election.

At the annual meeting of the First Baptist Church Wednesday night Harry L. Osborne and Charles S. Teall were elected trustees for three years, and F. C. Foster a deacon for one year. E. T. Van Vleet and Joseph B. Maxfield were named as deacons for three years. Franklin A. Stone was re-elected clerk for three years. The clerk's report showed the total membership to be 438. The amount raised for current expenses and improvements during the year was \$5,065.17, and the amount contributed for benevolences was \$3,063.43.

Order your half-shell oysters for New Year's dinner at Hopler's.—Advt.

THE NEW YEAR.

STRIKING CONTRAST BETWEEN FLIGHT OF TIME AND PROGRESS OF EVENTS

As Evidenced in a Review of Local Affairs—Better Prospects for Mutual Progress—Enlarged Transportation Facilities Will Be an Important Factor.

Nineteen hundred and four, the fourth year of the twentieth century, was hailed in the usual conventional way when it made its advent at the conclusion of the midnight toll of the bell on Thursday night. The historic record of 1903 was closed and filed and a new page turned for 1904.

Viewed from a prospective standpoint a year seems a long period of time and large in its possibilities, but from a retrospective point of view it seems but as the passing of a day and the actual accomplishments but few and small. Time flies rapidly, events progress but slowly. One year ago the citizens of this town were discussing several matters of public importance and welfare, and it seems almost beyond comprehension that an entire year has passed around and a new year finds the good people of this town still talking about the best method of procedure with respect to these same public issues. The water supply question then as now was an absorbing topic. It was fully anticipated that before the year closed that question would be definitely settled for a long period, at least. It cannot be said with any degree of confidence that an early and satisfactory settlement of the problem is yet in sight, notwithstanding the first month of the new year will witness another attempt to accomplish something. The year 1903 opened full of promise of new firehouses for the firemen. The firemen and others were talking about new firehouses a year ago, and are still talking about them, and are likely to talk for some time to come. The possible benefits of a proposed new trolley line between here and Elizabeth was a fruitful topic of conversation among politicians a year ago. It has been regularly talked of more or less about twice each month during the entire year, but the prospective benefits are still far off. A year ago the assembling of the State Legislature was looked forward to with more or less anxiety by the citizens of this town, and much speculation was indulged in as to what the Legislature might do with respect to the annexation of this town to Newark and the possible abolishment of the spring election. Precisely the same topics are the subject of speculation still, and the session of the approaching Legislature is looked forward to with the same anxiety.

Track elevation and the Lackawanna Railroad Company's new station were themes of public discussion one year ago, and have not yet progressed beyond the realm of talk. Morris Canal abandonment, a matter of more than ordinary interest here, occupied the public mind to some extent, and is still considered and discussed in an abstract way. The Passaic River Valley trunk sewer and its gigantic cost occasioned a nervous dread to taxpayers a year ago and has been a matter of talk among lawyers and laymen for a whole year, and still confronts taxpayers as one of the heavy burdens of the near future. The above enumerated matters are a few of the more important of public affairs which, considered retrospectively, appear to make New Year, 1903, appear as but yesterday. The same subjects occupy the same place still in the public mind.

While some of the matters that were in a prospective state in 1903 still occupy a place in the prospectus of 1904, the new year, like all its predecessors, has many things properly belonging to its own prospectus. If the Legislature makes no change in the election laws the spring election in 1904 will be one of more than ordinary interest, as it will be accompanied by the termination of an administration and the beginning of a new one. An administration in local politics extends during the term of the Chairman of the Council, which covers a period of two years. This spring the terms of the Chairman and three ward members of the Council expire. The material progress made in this town in the year 1903, as shown by the returns made by the Board of Assessors, was disappointing, but this was in part due to circumstances that it is hoped will be remedied. There has been much new work in the way of buildings during the year, and the prospects are that the financial showing for 1904 will be much more gratifying and indicate progress and development.

Towards the latter half of the year 1903 an industrial depression set in that Continued on page 2.

Viola and piano instruction at pupil's home or teacher's residence. For terms address: William J. Maler, No. 47 Fairmount Avenue, Newark, N. J.—Advt.

